

Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-10 USIE-00 IO-14 INR-11 DODE-00

AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 SWF-02 FDRE-00 SSO-00 DRC-01

RSC-01 INRE-00 EB-11 IGA-02 (ISO) W

----- 125453

R 251754Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7999

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: U.S. GRAIN CONDITION - ABIDJAN

REF: STATE 160360

1. MORNING JULY 25, IN RESPONSE REFTEL, AIDOFF, ADMIN ASSISTANT, DAHOMEY PCV BILL HILLYER AND LOUIS CHAVANON, FRENCH DIRECTOR OF SOCIETE GENERAL DES MOULINS DU TOGO, WHERE AMERICAN CONDOR GRAIN IS BEING STORED AND BAGGED, INSPECTED GRAIN FOR POSSIBLE INFESTATION OR DETERORATION. HILLYER HAS EXPERIENCE WORKING IN DAHOMEY GRAIN STORAGE PROGRAM AND CHAVANON HAS WORKED IN MILLS WITH VARIOUS GRAINS, INCLUDING SORGHUM, FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS.

2. IN OUR SURVEY WE FOUND NO REPEAT NO VISUAL EVIDENCE OF ANY BUGS, FUNGUS OR OTHER MATTER THAT WOULD MAKE GRAIN UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. WE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT CONDOR SORGHUM WAS APPARENTLY NOT CLEANED PROPERLY BEFORE LOADING. CHAVANON ESTIMATES 15 PERCENT OF GRAIN IS DUST, SHELL FRAGMENTS AND OTHER FOREIGN MATTER. AIDOFF AND HILLYER AGREE THAT GRAIN SEEMS EXCEPTIONALLY

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DIRTY COMPARED TO WHAT WE HAVE SEEN IN SACKED SORGHUM SHIPMENTS

THIS YEAR, BUT BELIEVE CHAVANON ESTIMATE IS EXAGGERATED. MUCH OF DUST AND DEBRIS BEING SIFTED OUT IN BAGGING OPERATION.

3. CHAVANON COMPLETED LAB ANALYSIS LATER IN MORNING AND FOUND MOISTURE CONTENT OF GRAIN TO BE 13.75 PERCENT WHICH HE CONSIDERS QUOTE GOOD LEVEL UNQUOTE FOR STORAGE IN TOGO. HILLYER IS RETURNING TO COTONOU WITH SAMPLE TO PERFORM SECOND ANALYSIS OF HUMIDITY LEVEL. EXPECT THESE RESULTS JULY 26.

4. AIDOFF HAS DELIVERED ANOTHER SAMPLE OF SORGHUM FOR ADDITIONAL ANALYSES TO DEPT OF PARASITOLOGY AT TOGO'S INSTITUTE OF HYGIENE. CURSORY EXAMINATION BY INSTITUTE'S TECHNICIANS CONFIRMS OUR FINDINGS PARA (2) ABOVE. LAB EXAMINATIONS ARE NOW UNDERWAY AND EXPECT LEARN JULY 26 WHETHER CONDOR GRAIN CONTAINS BUGS NOT VISIBLE TO NAKED EYE. INSTITUTE ALSO PERFORMING STUDIES WITH MICE AND IS GROWING CULTURES TO DETERMINE IF CONDOR SORGHUM FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

5. WE HAVE REMINDED LOCAL SACOTRA DIRECTOR GENERAL, PIERRE EDOH, OF HIS CONTRACTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO NOTIFY AID OF ANY DAMAGED CARGO AND PROHIBIT ANY TRANSHIPMENT THEREOF. EDOH IS GIVING USUAL FULL COOPERATION.

6. WILL PASS TO AID/W ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. BAGGING AT MILL AND SHIPMENTS TO OUAGA ARE CONTINUING. WISH TO ADVISE YOU THAT FLOUR MILL MUST EMPTY SILOS OF U.S. SORGHUM PRIOR AUGUST 15 ARRIVAL LARGE WHEAT SHIPMENT. IT UNLIKELY, THEREFORE, THAT MILL WOULD STOP BAGGING OPERATION UNTIL CONDITION CONDOR GRAIN CLARIFIED. IF NECESSARY, WE COULD CONTINUE BAGGING BUT HOLD CONDOR SHIPMENTS TO OUAGA AND BEGIN TRANSPORTING 1,000 MT EX-KORLE LAGOON.
RAWLS

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Message Attributes

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